

**MINUTES**  
**LOUISIANA UNIVERSITIES MARINE CONSORTIUM**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

and  
**SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street

Baton Rouge, LA

January 25, 2013, 1:00 pm

**I. Call to Order (Dr. Joe Savoie)**

Dr. Joe Savoie, Outgoing Chair, LUMCON Executive Board, called the meeting of the Executive Board for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium to order on January 25, 2013 in the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building, Board of Regents, Baton Rouge, at 1 p.m.

**II. Roll Call (Dr. Nancy Rabalais)**

*LUMCON Executive Board members present for the meeting:*

**\*Dr. Ramesh Kolluru**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Interim Vice President of Research

**\*Dr. Thomas Klei**, Louisiana State University and A&M College  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Development

**Dr. Christopher D'Elia**, Louisiana State University and A&M College  
Dean, School of the Coast & Environment

**\*Dr. Leslie K. Guice**, Louisiana Tech University  
Vice President for Research & Development, President Elect

**Dr. Ramu Ramachandran**, substituted for Dr. Stan Napper, Louisiana Tech University

**\*Dr. David Boudreaux**, Nicholls State University  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

**Dr. John Doucet**, Nicholls State University  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Steve Richters**, substituted for **Eric Pani**, University of Louisiana at Monroe

**Dr. Nicholas J. Altiero**, Tulane University  
Dean, School of Science and Engineering

**Dr. Paula Carson**, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Assistant Vice President for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

**\*Dr. Steve Johnson**, University of New Orleans  
Dean, College of Sciences

**\*Dr. Earl Melancon**, elected chair of the Science and Education Advisory Council [see below]

**\*Denotes voting members of the LUMCON Executive Board.**

Dr. Nancy Rabalais determined that 5 of 7 voting members of the LUMCON Executive Board constituted a quorum, and Dr. Savoie called the meeting to order.

*LUMCON Science and Education Advisory Council Members present for the meeting:*

**Dr. Earl Melancon, Jr.**

Distinguished Service Professor of Biological Sciences, Nicholls State University

**Dr. Edwin E. Leuck**, Centenary College

Professor of Biology

**Dr. Waneene Dorsey**, Grambling State University

Professor of Biological Sciences

**Mr. Raymond Duplessis**, Louisiana Community & Technical College System

Assistant Professor of Physics

**Dr. Robert Twilley**, Louisiana State University and A&M College

Executive Director, LA Sea Grant Program

**Dr. Amy Erickson**, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

**Dr. William Campbell**, Louisiana Tech University

Professor/Interim Director, Biological Sciences

**Dr. Ning Zhang**, McNeese University

Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering

**Dr. Zafer Hatahet**, Northwestern State University

Department Head, Biological and Physical Sciences

**Dr. Brian Rash**, Our Lady of the Lake College

Associate Dean, School of Arts, Sciences, and Health Professions

**Dr. Kyle Piller**, Southeastern Louisiana University

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

**Dr. Illya Tietzel**, Southern University of New Orleans

Associate Professor of Biology

**Dr. Michael J. Blum**, Tulane University

Associate Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy**, University of Louisiana at Monroe

Professor & Director, School of Science

**Dr. Ioannis Georgiou**, University of New Orleans

Associate Professor of EES/PIES

**Dr. Harish Ratnayaka**, Xavier University

Associate Professor of Biology

Guests in attendance:

Board of Regents: Joe Wiley; Board of Regents Staff: Uma Subramanian, Barbara Goodson, Harold Boutte, Jim Purcell, Carrie Robinson, Kerry Davidson; LUMCON: Nancy Rabalais, Heidi Boudreaux, Alex Kolker, Paul Sammarco, Joe Malbrough, Lora Pride, Genia Murray, Holly Hebert, John Conover; BTNEP Director: Kerry St. Pé; former Executive Board members, Dr. Joseph Savoie, ULL, and Dr. Stephen Hulbert, Nicholls State University; Mr. Bill Wilson, former member of the LUMCON Advisory Board and friend of LUMCON.

### **III. Selection of Chair of the Science and Education Advisory Council**

- A. Dr. Savoie asked the Science and Education Advisory Council to choose one of their members to be the Chair of the S&EAC.

Dr. Earl Melancon, Jr. volunteered himself as the inaugural Chair of the Science and Education Advisory Council. He spoke with the other members of the Council, explaining his history with LUMCON and why he would make a good selection as Chair.

**Dr. Robert Twilley moved for approval of Dr. Melancon as the Chair of the S&EAC. Four other members of the S&EAC seconded this recommendation. There was an acclamation vote among the Science and Education Advisory Council making Dr. Melancon, the Chair of the Science and**

**Education Advisory Council, and subsequently, a voting member of the LUMCON Executive Board.**

#### **IV. Selection of Chair of the newly formed LUMCON Executive Board**

- A. Dr. Joe Savoie asked the LUMCON Executive Board to choose one of their members to take over the role of Executive Board Chair.

**Dr. David Boudreaux nominated and Dr. Les Guice seconded Dr. Ramesh Kolluru. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Dr. Kolluru assumed the Chair position for the Executive Board, and Dr. Savoie turned the meeting over to him.

#### **V. Approval of Prior Minutes (Dr. Ramesh Kolluru)**

**Dr. Kolluru approved and signed the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on Dec 13, 2011. No objections were noted.**

#### **VI. Report of the Executive Director (Dr. Nancy Rabalais)**

##### **A. Financial Reports**

Dr. Rabalais presented a series of financial reports including the following and discussed each item with the Executive Board:

*FY12 Budgets Close-out* – Dr. Rabalais presented the breakdown of LUMCON's budget as of June 30, 2012 at the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year. These included the state budget, the indirect cost recovery budget, the BTNEP budget, and the ancillary Vessel Operations and Cafeteria/Dormitory budgets. Dr. Rabalais explained during her breakdown of the LUMCON budget how LUMCON functions financially in order to provide background to new members of the Executive Board and S&EAC.

*FY13 Budget* – Dr. Rabalais discussed the FY13 budget, detailing costs, income, budget cuts, etc. She presented the breakdown of LUMCON's budget as of December 31, 2012 in FY13. These included the state budget, the indirect cost recovery budget, the BTNEP budget, and the ancillary Vessel Operations and Cafeteria/Dormitory budgets. The BTNEP state matching support is cut equally as the LUMCON budget is cut, and is in danger of not meeting the state match required to obtain the EPA's federal funding. Dr. Rabalais detailed outstanding items dealing with hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac and answered questions from Dr. Kolluru in regards to these items. Dr. Rabalais indicated that Cafeteria/Dormitory budget is in the red at the moment, but that it is anticipated to come into the black. She also went over the R/V *Pelican* Ship Schedule for 2013 and how this effects vessel operations for the year. Dr. David Boudreaux asked about Day Rates and Dr. Ramesh Kolluru asked if there were different rates for private versus public. Dr. Rabalais explained that, due to the need to pay bills, there is a compromise on our public day rate. She also explained that there are rules in place for our rates because the *Pelican* is a member of the NSF academic fleet, stating that LUMCON is not permitted to provide higher rates for commercial interests. The *Pelican* income is no longer capable of supporting many of the marine education cost offsets any longer.

*Mid-Year FY13 Budget Cuts* – Dr. Rabalais gave details concerning the budget cuts from Aug 29, 2012 and Dec 28, 2012. Documents included were the BA-7 forms 13-1 and 13-2 as well as a Means of Financing and Expenditure breakdown. She explained that there was a mid-year budget cut along with an increase in fringe benefit rates that took additional funds away from LUMCON's State General budget.

**Dr. David Boudreaux moved to approve the FY2013 budget. Dr. Thomas Klei seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.**

*FY2013-2014 Budget Request* – Dr. Rabalais and Ms. Heidi Boudreaux presented information concerning the FY2013-2014 budget request. The documents included were a budget breakdown as well as Means of Financing and Expenditure breakdowns. Ms. Boudreaux went over information on inflation adjustment as well as cost of living increases. She also discussed what aspects of the budget change and when the budget is due each year. Ms. Boudreaux explained item by item what the FY 2014 budget request is asking for and explained what the funds would go toward. She explained state increased needs with the property control program, and the long standing request of the Board of Regents to add a Development staff.

**Dr. Thomas Klei moved to approve the FY2014 budget. Dr. Steve Johnson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.**

#### **B. New and Extended Research Grants**

Dr. Rabalais pointed to the report of the new research grants awarded since the last meeting of the LUMCON Executive Board, extensions, and extensions with supplements. Dr. Rabalais explained how the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative award has allowed for the hiring of a finance person, administrative staff member, marine education, and data manager, along with students and postdoctoral students at LUMCON, LSU and ULL>

**Dr. David Boudreaux moved to approve the New and Extended Research Grants. Dr. Thomas Klei seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.**

\*\*\*\*\*At this point, Dr. Illya Tietzel interjected to comment about Brandon Coleman's work at SUNO and how much of an impact he made on the students. Dr. Tietzel requested that he be made available more often so that he could continue that positive impact with the students of SUNO. Noted by the Executive Board and the Executive Director.

#### **C. Personnel Changes**

Changes in LUMCON personnel since the last meeting of the LUMCON Executive Board were presented. These included new hires, changes in status, resignations, and terminations. Although not pointed out at the time, Dr. Rabalais would like to draw attention to the retirement of long-term staff members, Mr. Wilson DeLaune caretaker of the Fourchon Lab, Mr. Jack Pennington chief engineer of the R/V *Pelican* and Dr. Michael Dagg professor and first scientist hired at LUMCON>

**Dr. Leslie Guice motioned to approve Personnel Changes. Dr. Thomas Klei seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.**

### **VII. LUMCON Annual Report**

The LUMCON Annual Report was included in the LUMCON Executive Board Booklet for this meeting. Dr. Rabalais presented the Annual Report, stating that it is shorter than usual this year, including only the Report of the Executive Director, Awards Listing, Research Publications listing, Current Budget Status, and Employee Listing for FY 2011-2012. She indicated that she was not sure what the new Executive Board would require in the next Annual Report and an additional report due at the end of 2013 concerning progress towards a to-be-developed LUMCON 5-year Master Plan.

#### **VIII. Comments from the floor on the Report of the Executive Director**

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru asked if anyone had any questions or comments on the floor. Dr. Thomas Klei replied with a comment/suggestion that it would be helpful to condense information into a matrix in order for new Board and Council members to see the state of the budget as it was and as it is now, to digest the information, and to measure productivity of the faculty and grants coming in. Dr. Rabalais made note of documentation that detailed these items which was made up for the Board of Regents, stating that it would be sent out to the members of the LUMCON Executive Board and Science and Education Advisory Council as soon as possible following the day's meeting.

#### **IX. Vice Chair of the Executive Board Elected**

The Executive Board made the decision to look forward in the Agenda to see which items still needed to be discussed. Act 768 was looked over and subsequently, the suggested Amended Bylaws. At this time, it was decided that a Vice Chair of the Executive Board would be elected.

**Dr. Christopher D'Elia moved to nominate Dr. Thomas Klei as the new Vice Chair to the Executive Board. Dr. Steve Johnson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.**

#### **X. Proxies to the Executive Board**

A question was raised by Dr. Steven Richter who was sitting in for Dr. Eric Pani of University of Louisiana at Monroe whether he was a voting member or not. Dr. Christopher D'Elia posed a question as to whether or not the legislation specifically prohibits voting members of the Executive Board from the use of a proxy in the event that he/she could not be at a meeting of the Executive Board. Dr. Nancy Rabalais answered that the legislation specifically forbids it. Dr. Nicholas Altiero asked if proxies could be used for the purpose of establishing a quorum. Dr. Nancy Rabalais stated again that, according to the legislation, proxies are specifically prohibited and read the appropriate section of Act 768 which states this fact. Dr. Thomas Klei verified, "...that specifically prohibits the right to use proxies according to the legislation?" Dr. Nancy Rabalais replied, "Yes, according to the legislation." At this point, Ms. Uma Subramanian, counsel to the Board of Regents staff clarified this point. She said that the legislation states that only Voting members of the voting institutions can make a quorum, and, furthermore, that proxy voting is not allowed under public meeting laws.

#### **XI. Ad-Hoc Committee to Review the Amended Bylaws of the Executive Board**

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Ramesh Kolluru suggested that each Executive Board Member evaluate and make recommendations to update the existing Bylaws, and adapt the Bylaws into motion as needed. It was decided after further discussion that an Ad-Hoc Committee, made up of volunteers from the

Executive Board, come together before the next meeting of the Executive Board and review the Bylaws for the purpose of bringing them to the table at the next Executive Board Meeting.

**It was unanimously agreed upon by the LUMCON Executive Board that an Ad-Hoc Committee be created and that the suggestions determined by this Committee be brought forth to the Executive Board as a whole at the next LUMCON Executive Board Meeting. Volunteers to the Committee include Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, Dr. John Doucet and Dr. Earl Melancon, Jr.**

Dr. Klei requested that revisions to the bylaws and recommendations be provided to the Executive Board in advance of the next meeting at which they would be discussed.

## **XII. Organization of the Science and Education Advisory Council**

The Executive Board and Science and Education Advisory Council discussed how they would hold the next meeting. Dr. Rabalais reminded the group that the LUMCON State General travel budget was \$0.00 and could not support travel for the SEAC. Discussion centered around video conferencing, and webinar type meetings. Dr. Melancon suggested that a meeting at the LUMON Marine Center would be appropriate. Dr. Robert Twilley, Director of Louisiana Sea Grant College Program would provide funds for some travel related to the SEAC. This was greatly appreciated and Drs. Melancon, Twilley and Rabalais will coordinate on this and a meeting for the SEAC. Dr. Amy Erickson suggested at 2:29pm that compressed video in the various campus classrooms be used for the meetings. Both Dr. Twilley and Dr. Rabalais offered the help of the Sea Grant and LUMCON staff, respectively, to help with the SEAC.

N.B. for information. Ms. Uma Subramanian advised Dr. Rabalais that the SEAC could meet by video or other teleconferencing methods for discussion, but at the time that they approved something to be taken to the Executive Board they must meet in person. [Required by Open Meetings Laws of Louisiana for legislated bodies.]

## **XIII. Ad-Hoc Committee to Develop a Five-Year Master Plan**

Act 768 of the Louisiana State Legislature states that “The executive board, in consultation with the Science and Education Advisory Council, shall formulate a five-year master plan for the consortium’s marine science and education programs and initiatives and shall make timely revisions to such plan as warranted as necessary. The initial master plan required by this Subsection shall be submitted to the Board of Regents not later than February 1, 2013.” Dr. Ramesh Kolluru suggested that, as with the Bylaws revision, an Ad-Hoc Committee be formed to review the mission, scope, and structure for LUMCON. Dr. Earl Melancon, Jr. inquired as to who this Committee should be comprised of. Regent Joe Wiley noted page four (4) of the packet in the Executive Board Booklet, Recommendations to the BOR, which states all of the items which should be covered by the Five Year Master Plan. He suggested that Science and Education Advisory Council Members also be on the Committee in order to set early goals and a reasonable time frame. He suggested that 180 days be that time frame, and Dr. Kerry Davidson stated that he would be happy to help. Dr. Rabalais pointed out that not just the LUMCON Marine Center in Cocodrie be considered in this plan, but also the role of the Consortium in the state and nation.

**It was unanimously agreed upon by the LUMCON Executive Board that an Ad-Hoc Committee be created and that the suggestions determined by this Committee be brought forth to the Executive Board as a whole at the next LUMCON Executive Board Meeting. Volunteers to the Committee include Dr. Thomas Klei, Dr. Chris D’Elia, Dr. Eric Pani, Dr. Paula Carson, Dr. Robert Twilley,**

**Dr. Earl Melancon, Jr., Dr. William Campbell, Dr. Illya Tietzel, Dr. Amy Erickson, Dr. Harish Ratnayaka, and Dr. Sushma Krishnamurthy.**

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

Dr. Earl Melancon, Jr. asked that the members of the Science and Education Advisory Council remain behind after adjournment in order to begin the process of determining time/date/location of their next meeting. Dr. Ramesh Kolluru asked that members of the two Ad-Hoc Committees stay behind to confer as well.

**Dr. Ramesh Kolluru announced adjournment of the meeting at 2:46 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:

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Dr. Ramesh Kolluru\*, Chair  
LUMCON Executive Board

\*Transcribed and edited by Genia Murray, LUMCON Administrative Assistant, audio tapes archived.

\*Further edited by Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Secretary to the Executive Board.